

# Cluster Chatter

Professional Development: Cluster 6  
November, 2002

## A Message from Mary

### Important Dates

CFASST Year 1 Training:  
March 12-14 Days 1-3

CFASST Year 2 Training  
March 26-27 Days 1-2

I have been thinking a great deal about ways to share the wealth of ideas from our programs with one another. A newsletter seemed a natural way to not only share training dates, tips, and updates with you, but also a vehicle by which to share all of your great ideas with one another.

So, with the launch of this first volume, I would like to invite you to send me your ideas: things you are doing to deepen your support providers' understanding of CFASST, training dates you'd like to share, special professional development events you would like to

highlight in your program. We could even include questions you have with a place I could post program directors' responses.

If you have additional ideas for the newsletter, just drop me a line at [mrockwell@avhsd.org](mailto:mrockwell@avhsd.org)

I hope you will all take time to enjoy the upcoming holidays!



## Documenting Evidence in CFASST Events



CFASST provides many opportunities for teachers to document, or permanently capture, what they are learning about themselves, their students, and their content area. We emphasize throughout every training that evidence is "observable," and though it's tempting to rely on the classroom observation, support providers need to understand **how** each step of an event could be a source of evidence to use when marking the *Descriptions of Practice*. So, in CFASST events 3 and 5, support providers use classroom

observation to collect evidence for standards 1, 2, and 3.1. However, when you are reviewing the event with support providers and participating teachers, please encourage them to see how the instruction plan, the reflection on that plan, and the analysis of student work all provide a participating teacher with evidence to use in the closure conference.

As you develop materials and activities designed to deepen your support providers understanding of the use of evidence, send them on to me, and I will include them in the next edition.

## Network Dates

February 7

May 9

9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Ontario: Country  
Suites

Registration forms  
available on the  
BTSA website:  
[www.btsa.ca.gov](http://www.btsa.ca.gov)

## Network Meetings: Who, What, Where, When, Why?

Network meetings are offered three times a year to support quality CFASST training. Often though, there's confusion around who should go, when, where, and why. All newly trained CFASST Year 1 and Year 2 trainers must attend three network meetings in the year following their training. HOWEVER, experienced trainers are always welcome to attend. Program directors are also asked to attend with one or two of their lead trainers.

Each meeting the cluster trainers and I provide activities for three separate groups:

Year 1 and Year 2 trainers, in separate

rooms, focus closely on CFASST events, problem solve issues of training, and share tips with one another.

Program Directors and their lead trainers participate in a leadership session focused on CFASST implementation. In February, Program Directors and their lead trainer(s) will begin planning for a cluster-wide box review.

Our intent is to provide all participants with materials and activities to use with support providers in their programs. We all know that initial training is a good start, but that on-going, support provider training ensures quality implementation for all participants.

## Questions & Answers



Here is your chance to ask a question, someone else has probably wondered the same you as you. E-mail your questions to Paula at [Pmurphy@avhsd.org](mailto:Pmurphy@avhsd.org)

Q. Why do the registrations have a registration and cancellation deadline?

A. To book the facilities, and prepare materials we need to know how many participants will be attending. We also need to let them know how many meals will be needed. We are charged for this number, for that same reason, if you cancel AFTER the cancellation deadline we will need to collect registration fees

to cover the cost involved in breakfast, lunch and snacks that we will still need to pay Country Suites.

If you cancel you will receive a form similar to the confirmation letter, informing you that we have received your cancellation.



## Great Quotes: Language

"Where your talents and the needs of the world cross, there lies your vocation." Aristotle

### Looking Ahead!

August 12,13,14  
Ontario, CA

Watch for a flyer announcing a three-day TOT on Differentiated Instruction with Carolyn Chapman. She will provide:

- a.) training in how to provide differentiated instruction
- b.) support for program teams in planning their own seminars for beginning teachers and support providers

INTERPRETER, n. One who enables two person of different languages to understand each other by repeating to each what it would have been to the interpreter's advantage for the other to have said. **Ambrose Bierce**

Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going. **Rita Mae Brown**

England and America are two countries separated by the same language. **George Bernard Shaw**

It is not how many languages you

can speak, but whether you have anything to say. **Noah ben Shea**

The liberation of language is rooted in the liberation of ourselves. **Mary Dal**

Language is a process of free creation, its laws and principals are fixed, but the manner in which the principles of generation are used is free and infinitely varied. Even the interpretation and use of words involves a process of free creation. **Noam Chomsky**



## Training Tip of the Month

Icebreakers sometimes are met with much moaning and groaning from participants, yet current research on learners indicates that icebreakers do much more than provide "fun." All learners, regardless of age, do their best thinking in a non-threatening environment. I have often heard Marilyn Tabor express that these opening activities are not about "being nice," but about creating a safe environment.

"Pick Pocket"

Use this activity when you want to encourage team building and/or help participants get to know each other.

Give each participant an activity sheet with a list of 15-20 items such as:

Picture of a close relative

Credit card w/out a signature

AAA card

Dry cleaner receipt

Fitness club card

ETC.

Give participants two minutes to come up with as many items as you have on your list and award themselves two points for each.

Then have table groups add up their total points. Award a prize to the table with the most points, or have each table select one item and explain how it relates to teaching, learning, life, etc.